XIV. *An Account of the Case of* William Carey, *aged Nineteen, whose Tendons and Muscles are turning into Bones. In a Letter to the Right Honourable the Lord* Cadogan, *F. R. S. from the Rev.* William Henry, *D. D. F. R. S.*

Castle-Caldwell, near Enniskillen, March 1. 1759.

My Lord,

Read Mar. 22, 1759.

HAVING come hither with the Earl of Shelburne, on a visit to Sir James Caldwell and his Lady, we met with a young man, whose case is of so extraordinary a nature, that we thought it might be of public utility to examine into it strictly, and transmit it to your Lordship.

A great part of his body is, within the space of two years, ossified; and the ossification is continually seizing more of the muscles.

I have in the case barely set down the facts, without any reasoning thereon. But, so far as I can conjecture, there seems first to ooze out of the joints a kind of jelly, which by degrees grows hard, fills up gradually the smaller vessels, and concretes into bone. If it goes on, I believe within a very few years the man, if he can live, will be completely ossified. Perhaps it may be of some benefit to mankind to have his case made known to the Royal Society, or to the College of Physicians. Your Lordship's judgment will determine best how proper this may be.

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My Lord Shelburne, and all his family, join in all poſſible reſpects with

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt obedient,

and moſt humble Servant,

William Henry.

The CASE *of* WILLIAM CAREY.

HE was born in an iſland in Lough Melvill, a large lake in the northern point of the county of Leitrim in Ireland, and has continued therein, or in the adjacent lands, ever ſince.

He was bred up to work as a labourer, and continued in very good health from his birth until two years ago. About that time he firſt felt an unuſual pain in his right wriſt, which in Auguſt 1757 began to ſwell: this obliged him to ceaſe from his uſual labour. In the ſpace of a month more, this ſwelling grew into an hardneſs, like to a bony ſubſtance; and continually ſhooting on, in December reached up as far as the elbow; all the muſcles continually growing into a bony ſubſtance, and dilating ſo, that his wriſt and arm are twice as thick and broad as in the beginning. About the ſpace of a week after the pain began in his right wriſt, he was ſeized with the like pain and ſwelling in the left wriſt. This has proceeded in all reſpects in the ſame manner as in his right arm. The whole ſubſtance of each arm, from the elbow down to the wriſts, feels as if it were one ſolid bone.

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The oſſification is ſhooting downwards into the fingers, and upwards into the elbows; ſo as already to prevent the bending of the fingers or elbow of the left arm. It has likewiſe ſhot upwards, ſo as to ſeize the great muſcles of each arm between the elbows and ſhoulders.

The continual pain and dilatation of the arms occaſioned a burſting of the ſkin and fleſhy parts about each elbow in November 1758; out of which oozed a thin yellowiſh humour, with a little digeſted *pus*. Some of theſe breaches have healed up of themſelves. One ſmall orifice in each elbow ſtill continues to run.

In March 1758. he was ſeized with the like pain and ſwelling in his right ancle, whence ſuch another bony ſubſtance ſoon grew as in his arms. This bony ſubſtance has ſhot up from his ancle, both in the inward and outward ſide of the right leg, half way up to the knee; and the like bony ſubſtance has, in the inward ſide, ſhot downward from the pan of the knee eight inches along the ſhin-bone, and is daily increaſing; ſo that he walks with much pain and difficulty, and after reſting in his walk, grows very lame. This perſon is of a very thin habit of body, and in ſize five feet nine inches; ſomewhat inclined to an hectic, tho' he has no cough.

The above-mentioned William Carey was inſpected, and cloſely examined, as to all the above particulars, at Caſtle-Caldwell, in the County of Fermanagh, this 1ſt Day of March 1759, by us

SHELBURNE.
JA. CALDWELL.
WILL^M HENRY.

This is exactly my caſe.
William Carey.